



**For the Fifth Year, Virginia Department of Education Awards Contract to NWEA;
MAP Growth Approved as “Student Growth Assessment” for VA School Districts**

*Most Precise Growth Assessment Is Aligned to VA Academic Standards,
Predictive of Standards of Learning Test Results*

Portland, Ore. – (January 31, 2018) – [MAP Growth](#) from the not-for-profit assessment solutions provider [NWEA](#) has been approved for the fifth year in a row as a “Student Growth Assessment” by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). VDOE awarded a contract to NWEA, enabling all Virginia public school districts to select MAP Growth as an approved assessment for measuring student growth.

Tightly aligned with VDOE’s Standards of Learning, MAP Growth is the most precise measure of a K-12 student’s academic growth. A computer-adaptive assessment, it adjusts to each student’s responses to provide personalized results about what each student knows, can do, and is ready to learn next—whether on, above, or below grade level. Teachers receive immediate and actionable information in easy-to-use reports to help differentiate instruction for students in need of remediation and high performers requiring additional enrichment. Because MAP Growth tracks individual student growth over time, it can help predict each student’s proficiency and college readiness.

MAP Growth has proved a valuable tool for Virginia educators by illuminating students’ learning needs, helping teachers to differentiate instruction, and enabling administrators to make well-informed decisions. Today, MAP Growth is a leading assessment of student academic growth in Virginia, taken by approximately 150,000 students in 46 school districts throughout the state.

“The greatest benefit that I have seen from using MAP Growth is that conversations about student achievement have moved from achievement to growth,” said Dr. Brenda Tanner, Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools, Orange, Virginia. “Gone is the reliance on single point-in-time assessments that limit students by the grade level to which they are assigned. By using MAP Growth, students are provided with the opportunity to show us what they know outside the narrow grade-level confines of local and state tests. Over time, we have been able to measure growth, adjust teaching to address specific areas of need, build on areas of strength, and communicate this work to parents and to students.”

MAP Growth is noted for its stable equal-interval vertical scale and the accurate, valid, and reliable data it provides. It is the only interim assessment that provides school-level norms based on data from more than 1.5 million students and 5.5 million test events over a three-year period. Through partnerships with the industry’s most extensive array of curriculum and instructional providers, teachers have the flexibility to use MAP Growth results with their current curricula and instructional tools.

VDOE approved MAP Growth K-2 in Mathematics and Reading, MAP Growth in Mathematics, Reading and Language Usage for grades 2-12, and MAP Growth Science for grades 3-10. The state renewed the contract with NWEA after a rigorous review of MAP Growth's alignment to the state's Standards of Learning. In addition, VDOE evaluated the assessment for validity and reliability; its ability to measure growth for all students; clear test administration, scoring and reporting procedures; accommodations for students with disabilities and English Learners; student data security; and comprehensive training support.

MAP Growth was the sole assessment awarded in the [2017 THE Journal Readers' Choice Awards](#) best assessment category. The awards recognize the best education technology products and services used by teachers throughout the country. MAP Growth also was named a winner of the [Tech & Learning 2017 Awards of Excellence](#), which recognize the best new and upgraded education tools that help educators in teaching, training and managing with technology.

MAP Growth is available for purchase and use by all Virginia local education agencies (LEAs), including Virginia public school districts, public schools, and consortia of Virginia public school districts. For additional information on MAP Growth, visit <https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/>.

About NWEA

NWEA® is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For 40 years, NWEA has developed innovative Pre-K–12 assessments, professional learning that fosters educators' ability to accelerate student learning, and research that supports assessment validity and data interpretation. Educators in 140 countries and more than half the schools in the US rely on our flagship interim assessment, MAP® Growth™; our progress monitoring and skills mastery tool, MAP® Skills™; and the OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA). Visit [NWEA.org](https://www.nwea.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

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